

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth

For Immediate Release

Contact: Russ Levens, 202-226-4449

**HERSETH SECURES \$37 MILLION FOR SOUTH DAKOTA WATER PROJECTS AS CONGRESS CUTS FUNDING ACROSS THE BOARD**

Herseth Calls Funding For Mni Wiconi and Lewis & Clark “Good Start”

**May 25, 2005, Washington DC** – Late yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a significantly smaller FY 2006 Energy and Water Development bill, which includes key funding for South Dakota Water Projects. The bill includes \$22 million for Mni Wiconi, \$15 million for Lewis & Clark and \$300,000 for Mid-Dakota. The Energy and Water Appropriations bill is \$131.7 million smaller than last year’s bill, resulting in fewer funds available for local water projects. Given that budgetary reality, Herseth called the funds “a good start.”

The \$131.7 million cut hit projects funded by Congressional earmarks particularly hard. Energy and Water Subcommittee Chairman David Hobson (R-OH) publicly noted, “We did not add as much for member projects as we have in previous years.” That environment made securing even baseline funds difficult.

Herseth said, “These water projects are not only important to the families who need access to clean, safe drinking water, but to the communities looking to create jobs and support growing economies. We knew going into this debate that the significant budget cuts for clean water would make securing adequate funding for South Dakota difficult, but I’m pleased that we were able to deliver a strong starting point.” Herseth added, “These bills start in the House, and make their way through both the Senate and the Conference Committee. The delegation will continue to work together to add funds as the process continues.”

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